System Capacity Grant Annual Progress Report Template

Status: Accepted

Country	Grant ID	Grant Agent	Grant Effectiveness/Start Date
El Salvador	GPE0000796	SCG	10/07/2022

Grant Amount	Timeframe Examined in this Report		Date of Report Submission
	From Date	To Date	
1,600,000 (USD)	10/06/2022	06/29/2024	07/11/2024

Area(s) and activity group(s) covered by grant

Window 1: Strengthen gender-responsive planning and policy development for system-wide impact

- System diagnostics, compact development and education sector analyses
- Gender-responsive sector planning, including operational planning and budgeting

Window 2: Mobilize coordinated action and financing to enable transformative change

- Strengthening budget processes and ministry of finance engagement; identifying opportunities to improve the equity and efficiency of education expenditure, including processes toward gender equality

Window 3: Strengthen capacity, adapt, and learn, to implement and drive results at scale

- Strengthening data systems, including on improving the availability and use of sex-disaggregated data, and data on children with disabilities
- Training and support for government staff and central and decentralized levels, including on the uptake and use of data and evidence
- Support for implementation capacity, including sector plan implementation monitoring, gender responsiveness of the sector and evaluation of sector plans and policies/programs in priority areas; assess monitoring, evaluation and learning capacity, including use of evidence in policy process

Implementation Progress

Overall Project Progress this Reporting Period

Overall progress this reporting period [1]	Previous Rating
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	NA

Detailed Description including factors that lead to an upgrade/downgrade in the rating

This grant is mainly aimed at strengthening the MoE's capacity to generate, store and use data in order to make evidence-based decisions. The main activity is a consultancy that will work on MoE's EMIS (SIGES). This consultancy will work closely with MOE authorities and WB task team identifying a governance model for EMIS and a advising on the improvement of certain modules within the system. The main delay in the activity has to do mainly with conflicts between World Bank regulations involving Bank Executed Trust Funds and activities that involve government data and systems. At the same time, not many firms applied to participate in the selection process. These two challenges delayed the execution of the SCG in El Salvador.

Describe priority actions planned for the following year to overcome constraints, build on achievements and partnerships, and use the lessons learned during the reporting period.

During 2024 the priority of the Grant Agent is to advance on the consultancy that will work on EMIS. The task team has been working on solutions around the issues of WB regulations and has been inviting

firms to participate on the selection process. At the same time, the team is moving forward with other activities such as the knowledge products on dropout and teen pregnancy. The dropout product is close to being finalized and the teen pregnancy activity has already been designed and approved by the MoE focal point. At the same time, a postgraduate program aimed and building capacity with MoE technical staff has been designed and the task team is working to set dates and get approval from MoE.
The task team aims to start the EMIS activity the second semester of 2024 and doesn't anticipate more delays from this activity.

Grant Implementation Progress, by Grant Window

Grant Window	Level of Progress this Reporting Period [2]	Previous Rating
Window 1: Strengthen gender-responsive planning and policy development for system-wide impact	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	NA

Detailed Description:
-In this window a sector plan update with 2022 data was planned. However the Sector Plan developed with the ESPDG was replaced by the Partnership Compact, thus the activity was not carried out since it seemed futile for the task team and MoE. A proposal to use the funds for a revised Compact is under discussion by the task team and MoE focal points.
-A gender specialist consultant was hired to support and strengthen MoE capacities. The consultant worked closely with the recently created Gender Unit at the MoE to advise on designing standardised tests with gender perspective; the consultant also organized and led workshops with the MoE technical staff and Gender Unit.

Grant Window	Level of Progress this Reporting Period [2]	Previous Rating
Window 2: Mobilize coordinated action and financing to enable transformative change	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	NA

Detailed Description:
This window planned the hiring of a consultant to develop an efficiency study of public budgeting for the education sector as a way to strengthen that enabling factor. The activity is planned to start in September 2024.

Grant Window	Level of Progress this Reporting Period [2]	Previous Rating
Window 3: Strengthen capacity, adapt, and learn, to implement and drive results at scale	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	NA

Detailed Description:
-ToR for the hiring of a consultant firm to work on the improvement of the EMIS in El Salvador have been developed. This task is the main objective of the SCG funding as it looks to strengthen the MoE ability to develop, store and use data end evidence for policy decisions. Informative sessions with shortlisted candidates took place and ToRs were adapted to follow Bank regulations. The firm was hired in the first quarter of 2024.
-A Consultancy to understand drop out dynamics was finished and results were delivered to the MoE. The activity consisted on comparing droput estimations by the MoE and contrast them with UNESCO-CEPAL methodology and show differences that should be taken into account by the MoE. The consultant presented results with high level officials from the MoE and delivered the written document. MoE is analyzing the content ad deciding on next steps. This activity fulfills SCG objectives to strengthen data and evidence capacity. It is important to mention that this knowledge product enhances and shows differences by gender using secondary data.

-A consultancy to support the development of the quality structure in early childhood was hired and the consultant is currently finishing the report that will be socialized with the MoE in august 2023. The characterization of status quo SQS in early childhood considered all documents available in the MoE Growing up Together Institute and former CONNA data.
-A concept note to undertake a teen pregnancy analysis was developed and socialized with MoE Focal points. The Concept note was approved and the task team is moving forward.

Lessons, innovative/promising practices

The SQS framework has been adopted by the MoE including early childhood. It is been included as a cornerstone to the works of the Growing up Together Institute. At the same time, the Gender Unit at MoE has been empowered by the consultant's support and continues to work alongside all technical units ensuring gender equality and inclusion.

A learning experience from a grant agent perspective also took place regarding the activity designed to support the EMIS system. There is conflict between Bank regulations and activities sponsored by GPE that involve all EMIS or MoE systems in general, this leads to confusion between firms and clients and ToRs have to be modified in order to comply with regulations.

Impact stories

None, it's an early stage in SCG to have direct impact on beneficiaries. Key activities have started in the first quarter of 2024.

Tangible Outputs, Knowledge Products, Results Framework and other Supporting Documentation

#	File Name	Document Type	Description

The documents listed were submitted with the progress report. If you'd like access to them, please contact the grant operations officer for your country.

Financial Reporting & Grant Management

Financial Reporting on GPE Grant

Cumulative Financial Absorption Rate

Approved Budget to Date	Cumulative Expenditure	Cumulative Financial Absorption Rate	Level of Financial Absorption
1,600,000	49,289.51	3.08	Off Track

Since the financial absorption is not rated as 'on track', please provide an explanation that identifies the main activities that have been delayed and their corresponding unspent amounts, as well as reasons for the delay and steps taken to ensure that expenditure absorption gets on track in the next reporting period.
This grant is mainly aimed at strengthening the MoE's capacity to generate, store and use data in order to make evidence-based decisions. The main activity is a consultancy that will work on MoE's EMIS (SIGES). This consultancy will work closely with MOE authorities and WB task team identifying a governance model for EMIS and a advising on the improvement of certain modules within the system. The main delay in the activity has to do mainly with conflicts between World Bank regulations involving Bank Executed Trust Funds and activities that involve government data and systems. At the same time, not many firms applied to participate in the selection process. These two challenges delayed the execution of the SCG in El Salvador.

Due to this delays, around $750,000 have not been spent, but with the activities and work on resolving procurement bottlenecks this amount will be excecuted during the second semester of 2024 and first

semester 2025.

Budget Variance Analysis for the Current Reporting Period

Total Approved Budget for the Current Reporting Period
1,600,000

Total Expenditure for the Current Reporting Period
49,289.51

Explanation for underspending or overspending in excess of 10%
To date, the underspending is due to the delay of the hiring process of the consulting firm working on EMIS. This activity represents 47% of the assigned budget and was planned tos tart on 2023. The firm was already hired in early 2024 and started work in June 2024, so any delay in spending will be compensated the last semester of 2024.

Management Performance

Level of management performance

Detailed Description

Revisions to the grant

This period, have there been any revisions to the grant other than those submitted to the Secretariat for their approval?
No

How likely is that the grant agent will submit a request for revision to the Secretariat in the next 12 months for their approval?
Highly Unlikely

Annexes

Annex 1: List of Acronyms

Acronym	Description

1 Highly Unsatisfactory- The grant has major shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is unlikely. Unsatisfactory - The grant has significant shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is uncertain. Moderately Unsatisfactory - The grant has moderate shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs but a resolution is likely. Moderately Satisfactory - The grant is expected to achieve most of its major outputs efficiently with moderate shortcomings or delays. Satisfactory – The grant is expected to achieve almost all of its major outputs efficiently with only minor shortcomings or delays. Highly Satisfactory - The grant is expected to achieve or exceed all of the major outputs efficiently without significant shortcomings or delays.

2 Highly Unsatisfactory – The window has major shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is unlikely. Unsatisfactory – The window has significant shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is uncertain. Moderately Unsatisfactory – The window has moderate shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs but a resolution is likely. Moderately Satisfactory – The window is expected to achieve most of its major outputs efficiently with moderate shortcomings. Satisfactory – The window is expected to achieve almost all of its major outputs efficiently with only minor shortcomings or delays. Highly Satisfactory – The window is expected to achieve or exceed all of the

major outputs efficiently without significant shortcomings or delays.

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